

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 01063 242235Z
ACTION ARA-10

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P 242215Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4438
FESA FT BELVOIR VA PRIORITY
INFO OSD (ISA) PRIORITY
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
DAEN-FEZ-A PRIORITY
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY
USCINCSO CZ PRIORITY

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EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: ENRG, SWEL, HA
SUBJECT: SEDIMENTATION PROBLEM, PELIGRE DAM

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 1045 DTG 232115Z MAR 77

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS LTC WEINERT'S ASSESSMENT OF
SEDIMENTATION PROBLEM AT PELIGRE DAM. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
TO THIS PROBLEM WILL BE DISCUSSED BY LTC WEINERT UPON HIS
RETURN TO WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY

1. CANADIAN ENGINEERS HAVE BEEN STUDYING PROBLEM FOR
MANY MONTHS. EXTENT OF VOLUME REDUCTION IN RESERVOIR
NOT KNOWN DUE TO LACK OF ORIGINAL SURVEY DATA BUT
ESTIMATED AT ONE-QUARTER. SILTING NOW IS GREATLY
IN EXCESS OF THAT AT TIME OF CONSTRUCTION IN 1956 --
ESTIMATES ARE 10 MILLION CUBIC METERS A YEAR.
RESERVOIR CAPACITY IS 450 MILLION CUBIC METERS.
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2. MOST OF WATERSHED IS WITHOUT GROUND COVER TO
HOLD WATER. SIXTY PERCENT OF AREA HAS SLOPES GREATER
THAN 40 PERCENT. MOST OF CUTTING OF TREES FOR CHARCOAL AND
AGRICULTURE IN WATERSHED AREA HAS TAKEN PLACE IN LAST
TEN YEARS.

3. UPPER REACHES OF RESERVOIR ARE HEAVILY SILTED. DEPOSITS ARE BLOCKING FLOW OF WATER INTO RESERVOIR, WATER IS NOW AT 154M. ELEVATION. SPILLWAY IS 172M. FLOW INTO THE RESERVOIR IS 10 CUBIC METERS PER SECOND. EVAPORATION ESTIMATE IS 1.2 CUBIC METERS PER SECOND. FLOW OUT IS 16 CUBIC METERS PER SECOND THROUGH PENSTOCKS. PROVIDING SEASONAL RAINS ARRIVE, RECHARGE OF RESERVOIR IS EXPECTED TO START IN APRIL. FULL RESERVOIR COULD OCCUR IN JUNE.

4. MIGRATION OF SILT TO DEEP PORTION OF RESERVOIR ADJACENT TO DAM IS UNKNOWN; HOWEVER, SEVERE DRAWDOWN AND RESULTING STEEP GRADIENT IN RESERVOIR IS ACCELERATING THIS MIGRATION. SILTATION EXPERT WORKING WITH CANADIAN ENGINEERS RECOMMENDS LIMIT OF 151M WATER LEVEL TO RESTRAIN SILT MOVEMENT.

5. DETAILED DATA ON SOURCES OF SILT, ACCUMULATION AND TRANSPORT WILL BE OBTAINED BY CANADIANS THIS SUMMER AND WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE FALL. PENDING COLLECTION OF THAT INFORMATION A CLEARCUT COURSE OF ACTION TO STOP SILTING IS NOT IDENTIFIED.

6. WHATEVER SHORT-TERM MEASURES ARE TAKEN SUCH AS A CHECK DAM AT THE UPPER END OF THE RESERVOIR MUST INCLUDE LONGER-TERM WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT AS PART OF CORRECTIVE ACTION. FINANCING OF CHECK DAM OR OTHER AID MUST BE TIED TO HAITIAN COMMITMENT TO REFORESTATION OF WATERSHED, TERRACING OF CULTIVATED SLOPES, SELECTED PLANTING OF GROUND COVER CROPS AND CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL RETAINING DAMS ON RAVINES AND STREAMS FEEDING RESERVOIR. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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